

Message Text

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S E C R E T TAIPEI 2015

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A.)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH KIM CHONG-PIL

1. VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER MET FOR APPROXIMATELY FORTYFIVE MINUTES MORNING APRIL 16 WITH RIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST. DEPTASSTSEC ZURHELLEN AND VICE PRESIDENT'S ASSISTANT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS CAPT. HOWE WERE PRESENT AND MR. HAN SANG-KOOK ACTED AS INTERPRETER FOR PRIME MINISTER.

2. PM KIM SAID THAT PRESIDENT PARK HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY WARM PERSONAL REGARDS TO PRESIDENT FORD. VICE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE MESSAGE AND HE KNEW PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE VERY PLEASED. VICE PRESIDENT STATED THAT THE US HAS A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND EXPECTS TO LIVE UP TO IT. THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM WAS SPECIAL AND DID NOT IMPLY ANYTHING TOWARDS SOUTH KOREA AND THE REST OF THE NORTHEAST ASIA AREA. WE HAVE EVERY INTENT TO KEEP AN AMERICAN PRESENCE AND AMERICAN FORCES IN KOREA. WE HAVE
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A STRONG AND CLEAR DETERMINATION TOWARDS THE ROK AND WE APPRECIATE THE ROLE OF THE ROK IN OUR OWN SECURITY.

3. THE VICE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THERE IS A FREE PRESS IN THE US, HOWEVER, WHICH CRITICIZED SOME OF THE METHODS USED IN THE ROK, AND THIS CRITICISM WAS PICKED UP IN THE CONGRESS. HE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR MAINTAINING INTERNAL SECURITY AND HAD NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO TELL THE ROK HOW TO HANDLE ITS AFFAIRS, BUT THIS CRITICISM DID EXIST.

4. PM KIM EXPRESSED HIS SINCEREST APPRECIATION FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S HAVING RECONFIRMED THE US DETERMINATION WHICH HE HAD WANTED TO HEAR. HE FELT REASSURED. HE SAID THE US HAS AN ABLE AMBASSADOR IN KOREA WHO COMMANDS HIGH RESPECT. THE ROK WAS DOING ITS BEST TO MAINTAIN UNFALTERING FRIENDSHIP AND THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND KOREA IN SEOUL. HE EXPLAINED HOW THE ROK GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT NORTH KOREA IS UTILIZING STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, ANTI-GOVERNMENT MEETINGS, AND OTHER MEANS OF CAUSING DIFFICULTY WITHIN THE ROK. THE SITUATION, HOWEVER, WAS NOT AS SERIOUS AS PEOPLE ABROAD THOUGHT. SOMETIMES PRESIDENT PARK TOOK STONG MEASURES BUT IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE USING AGAINST SOUTH KOREA THE SAME METHODS BY WHICH THEY HAD DESTROYED THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT IN CHINA AND DRIVEN CHIANG KAI-SHEK FROM THE MAINLAND. THE COMMUNISTS TODAY IN KOREA ARE PARTICULARLY WORKING THROUGH RELIGIOUS GROUPS, ESPECIALLY THOSE CONCERNED WITH URBAN EVANGELIZATION. THE ROK HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED CLERGYMEN AS ANTICOMMUNIST BUT THESE DAYS THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE. THE PEOPLE ARE BEING AGITATED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BY SLOGANS
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AND CLAIMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ANTI-DEMOCRACY AND SUPPRESSES FREEDOM. THIS IS MEANT TO CONFUSE THE PEOPLE AND INCAPACITATE THE GOVERNMENT.

5. PM KIM SAID IN CONCLUSION HE WANTED TO ASSURE THE US THAT KOREA WAS A STONG ALLY. THE VICE PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT WE WANT IT TO STAY THAT WAY. HE WAS HAPPY TO HAVE HAD THIS CHANCE TO MEET THE PM, EVEN THOUGH UNDER SAD CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TO EXPRESS THE DETERMINATION OF THE US. PM KIM SAID THAT KOREA WOULD TAKE CARE OF ITSELF AND DO

ITS BEST TO MAINTAIN STABILITY AND NOT BECOME
A BURDEN ON THE US. HE HOPED THAT THE VICE
PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT FORD WOULD LOOK UPON
KOREA IN THIS WAY AND COUNT ON IT TO RESPOND
IF THE IME CASE WHEN WE HAD TO WORK TOGETHER.
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